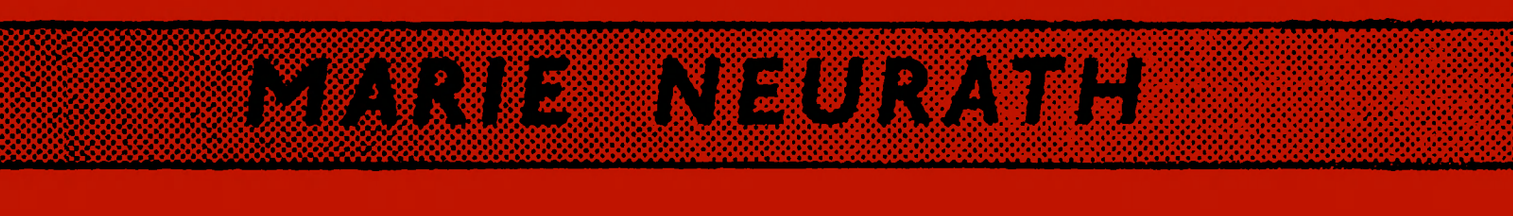
THE WONDER WORLD OF

ANIMALS

MARIE NEURATH



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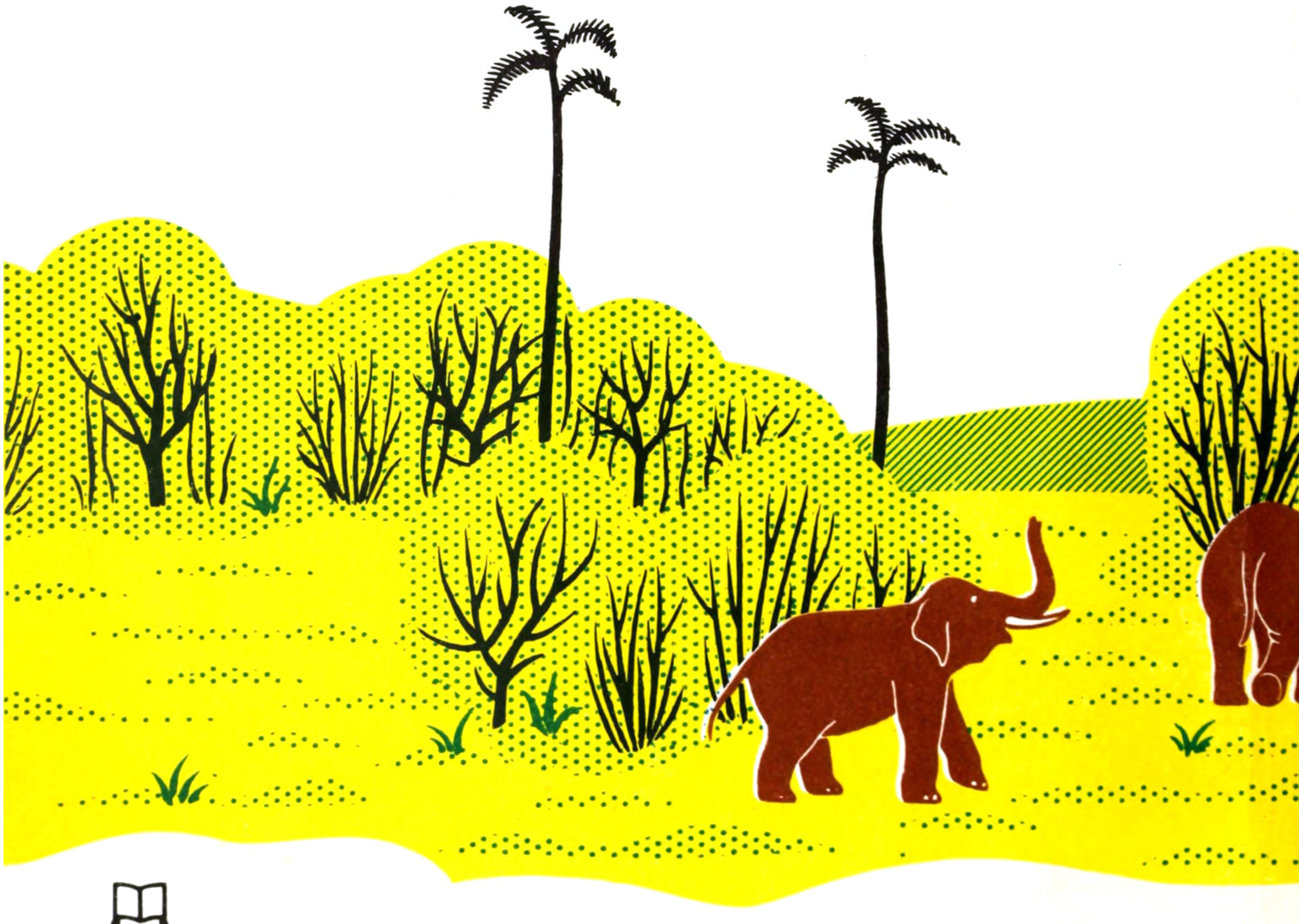

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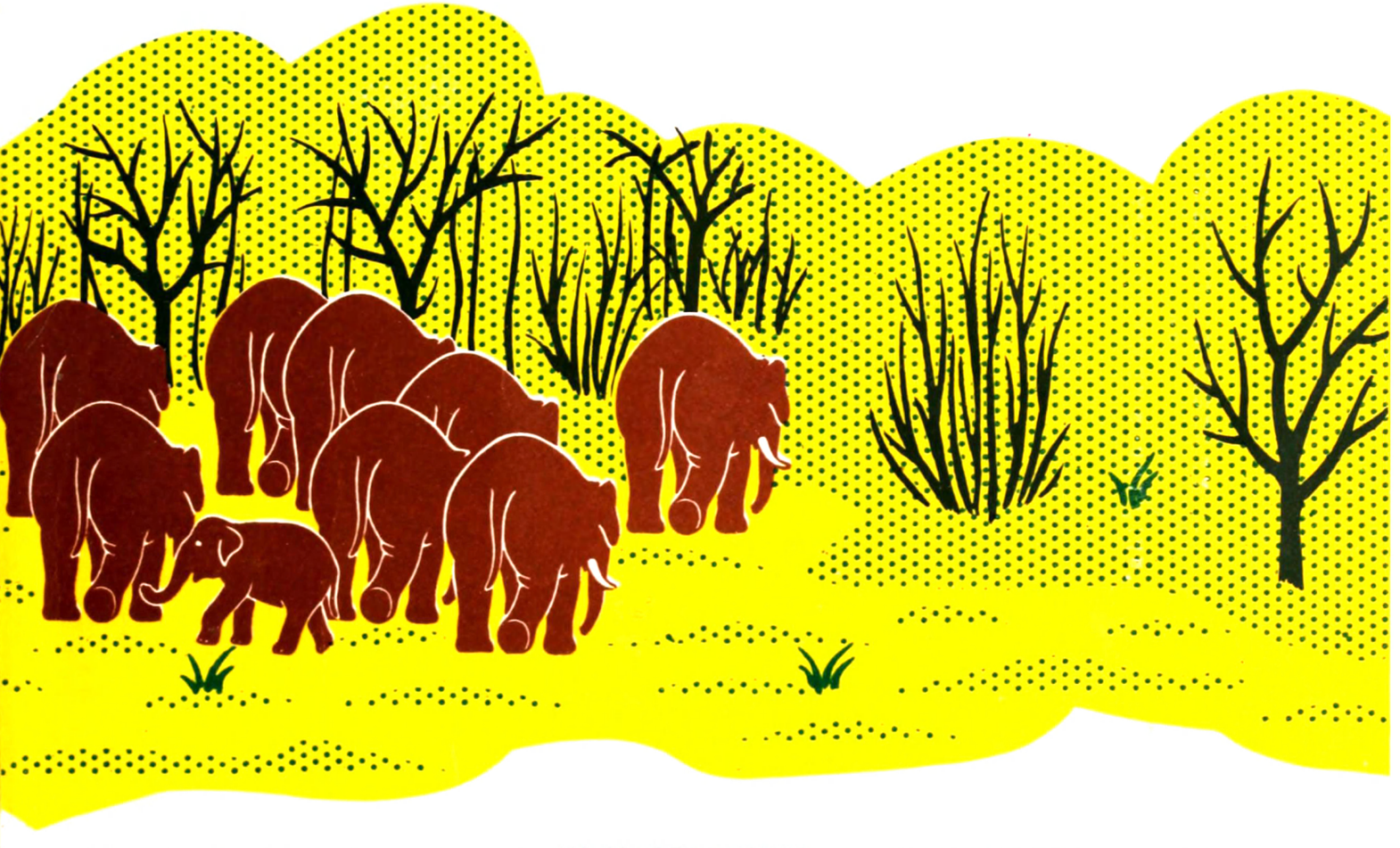

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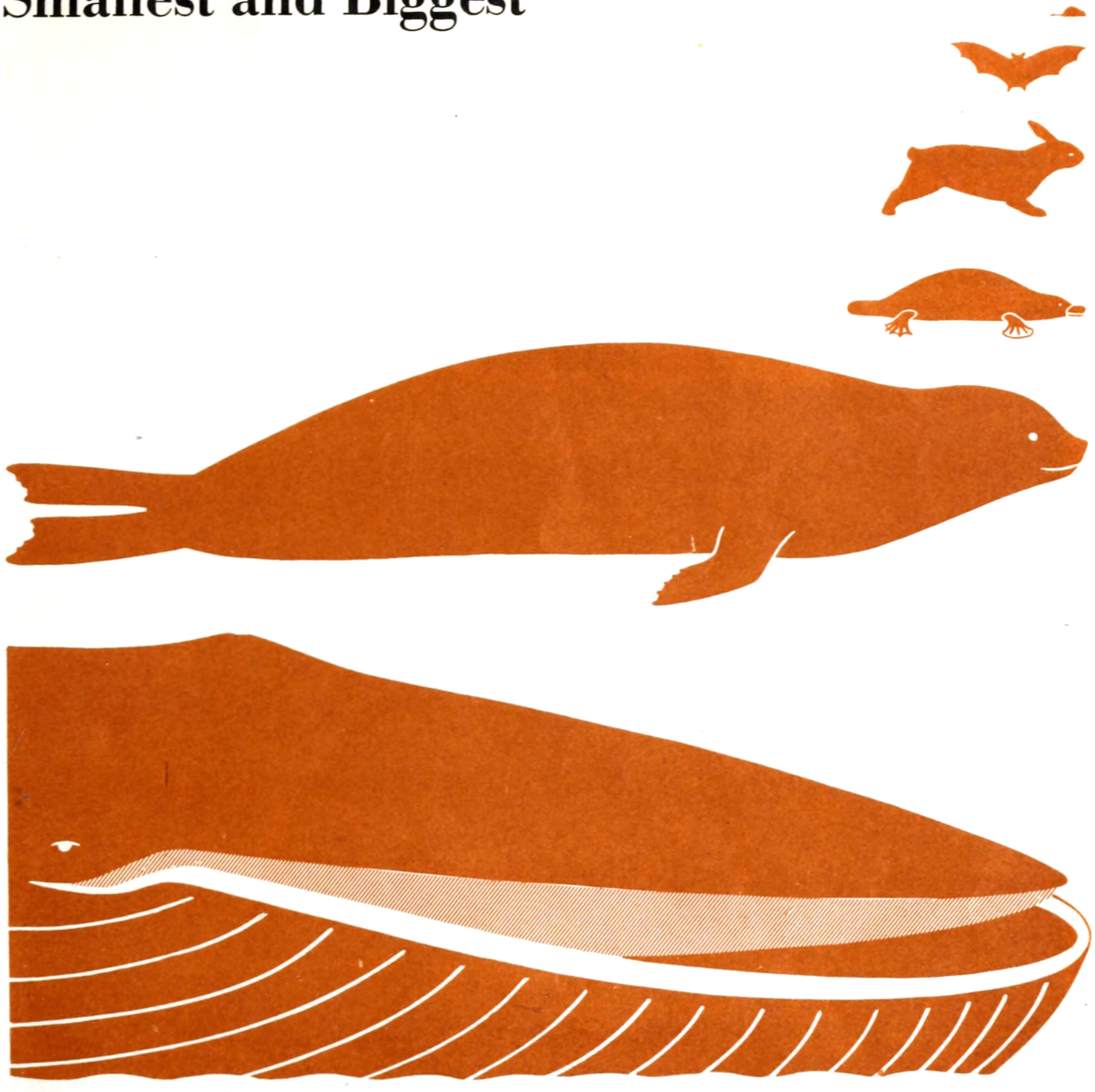
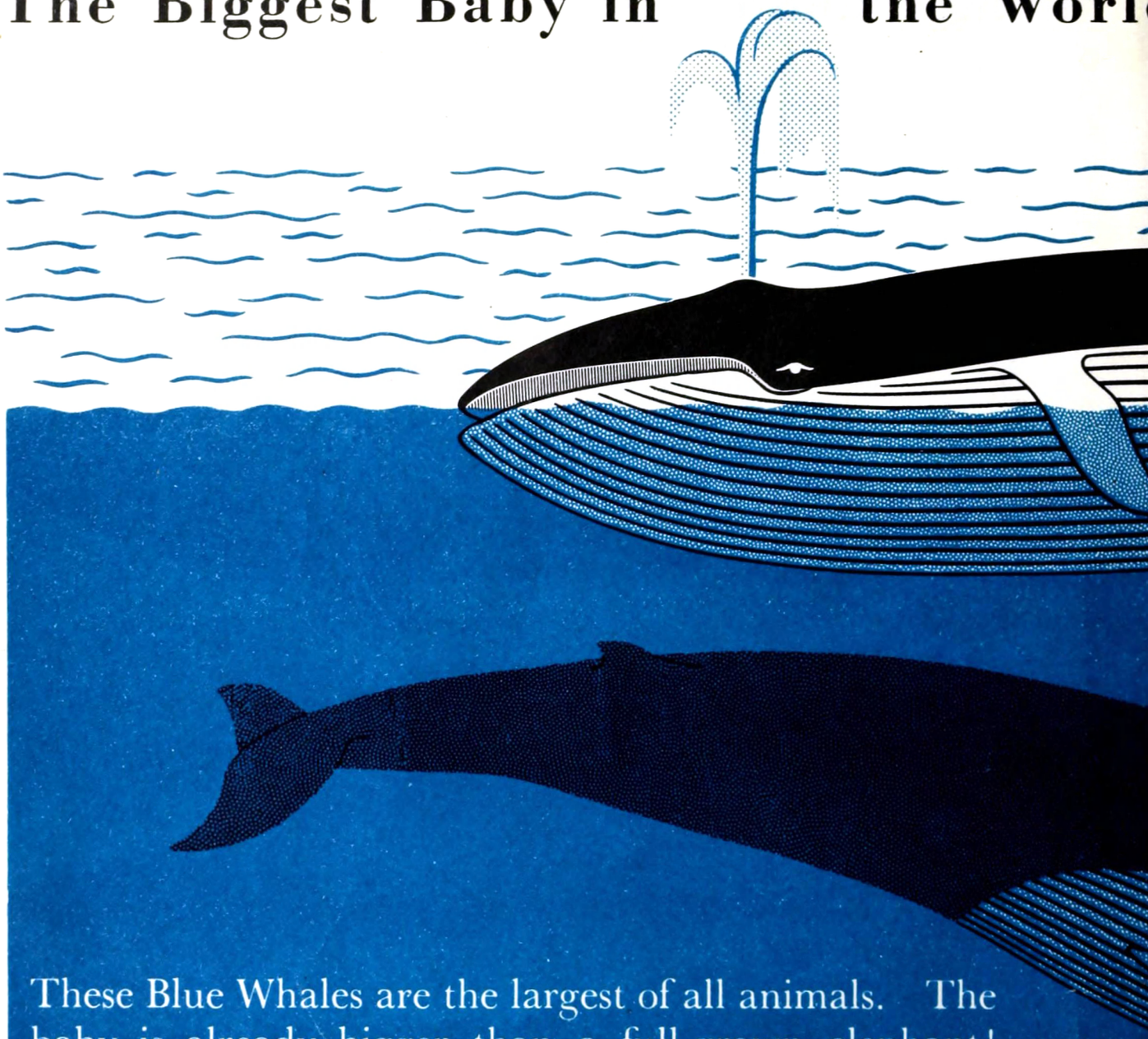
Smallest and Biggest



If we draw the harvest mouse to the size shown on this page, we need twelve pages to show the whole whale. What are the other animals ? You will find them all in this book.

The Biggest Baby in the Worl



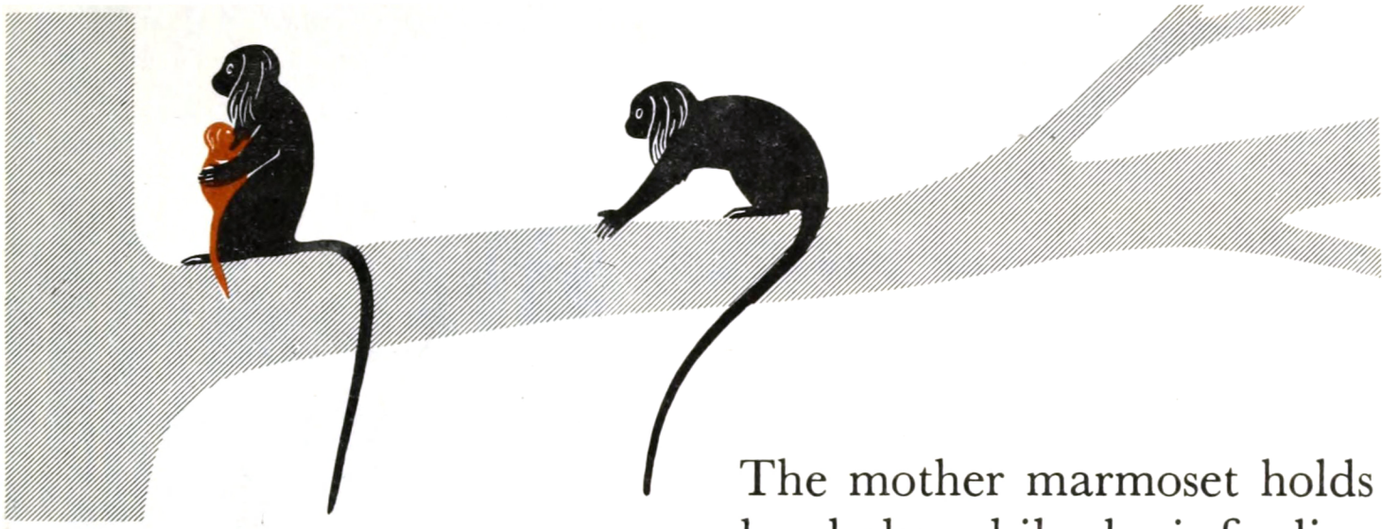
These Blue Whales are the largest of all animals. The baby is already bigger than a full-grown elephant! While the baby feeds, mother whale floats on her side. The baby's nose, on top of its head, comes above water so that it can breathe while sucking. Father, mother and baby all keep close together.

Forest Animals Too Young to Climb

Animals which live in trees must carry their babies until they learn to climb. The mother sloth hangs from a branch with her hook-like feet. Baby clings to her.

Young opossums sit on their mother's back and twine their tails round hers.

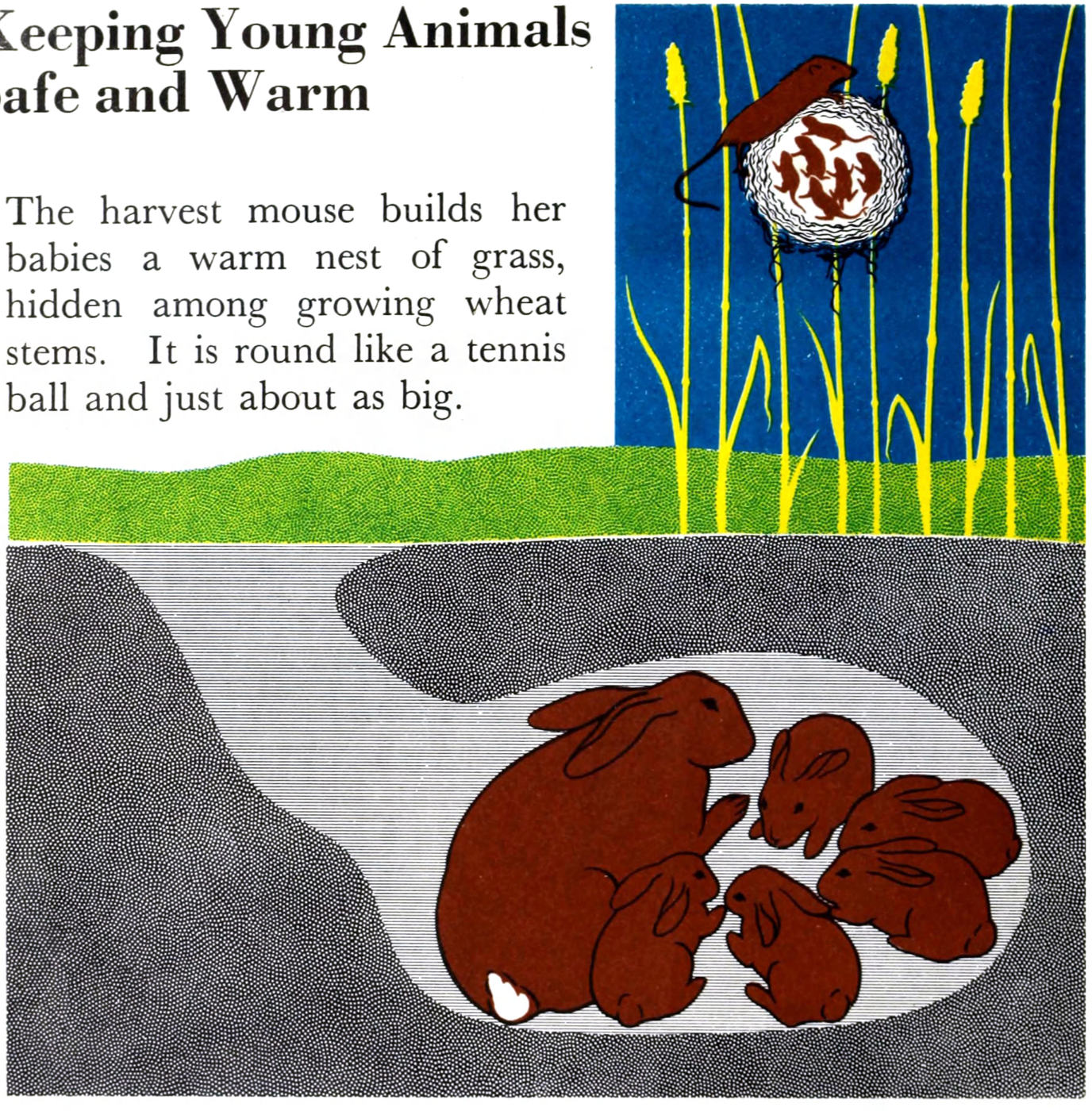
Baby chimpanzee rests on its mother's hip and clings to her neck. The mother holds it with one paw, leaving the others free for climbing.



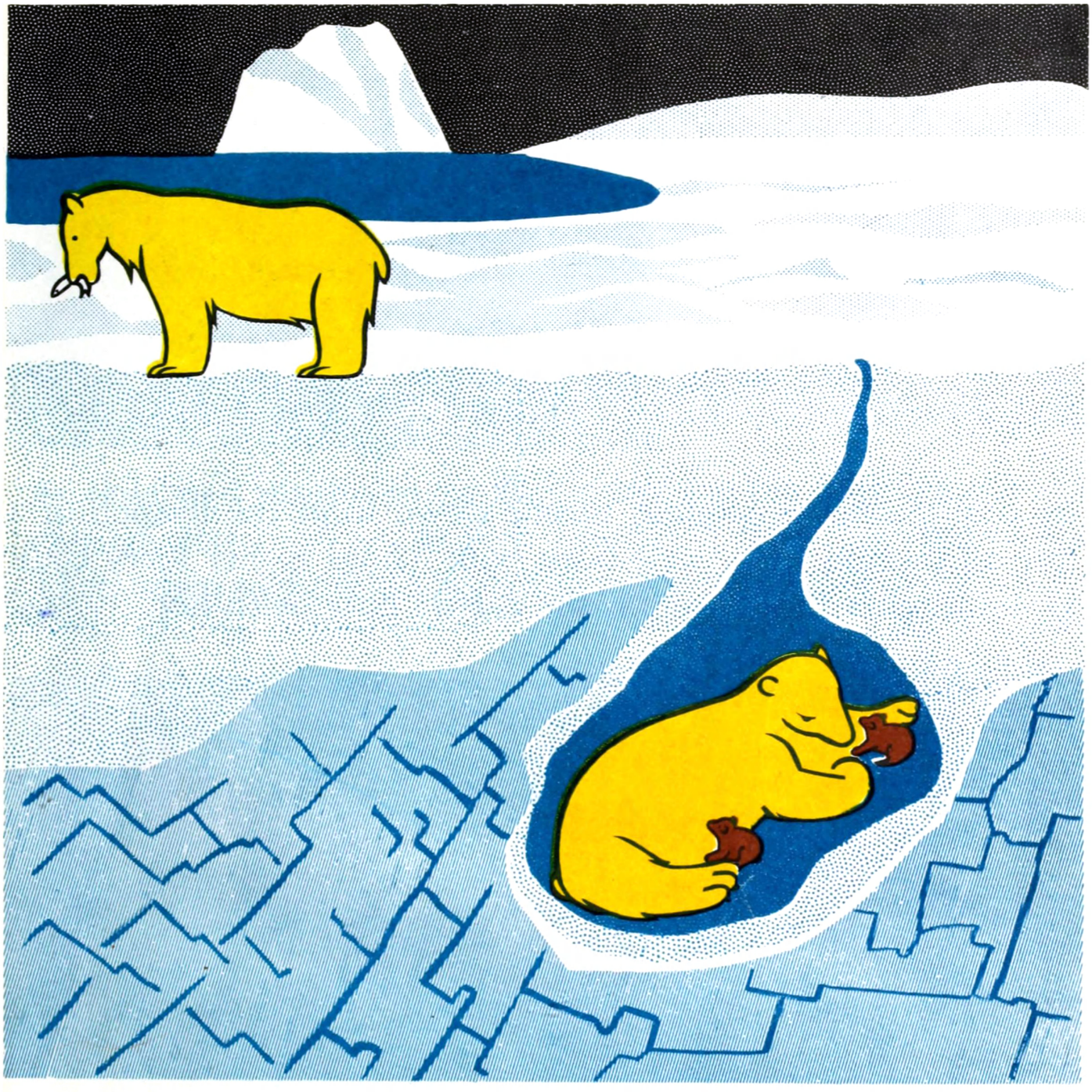
The mother marmoset holds her baby while she is feeding it. When she has finished she hands it to its father. The father places it on his neck or shoulders while he climbs about. He takes care of it until the time for feeding comes round again.

Keeping Young Animals Safe and Warm

The harvest mouse builds her babies a warm nest of grass, hidden among growing wheat stems. It is round like a tennis ball and just about as big.

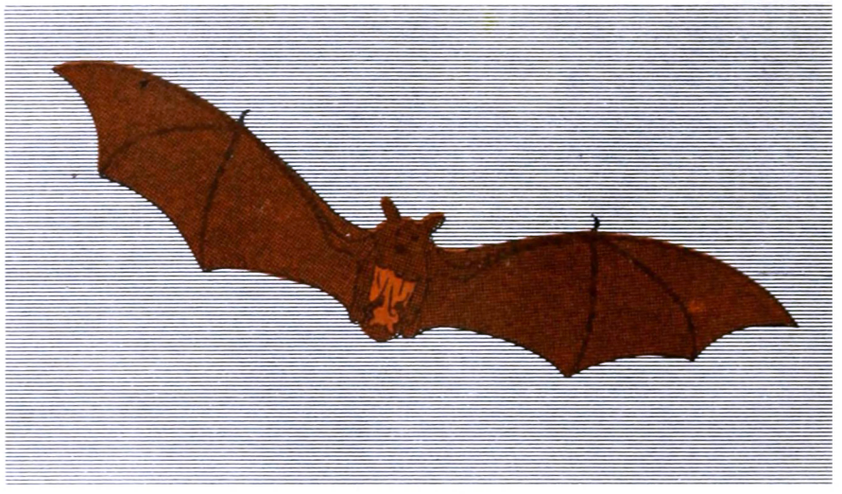


Most mother animals take great care of their helpless babies. Baby rabbits have a room of their own under the ground. The mother pulls fur from her own coat to line their nest.



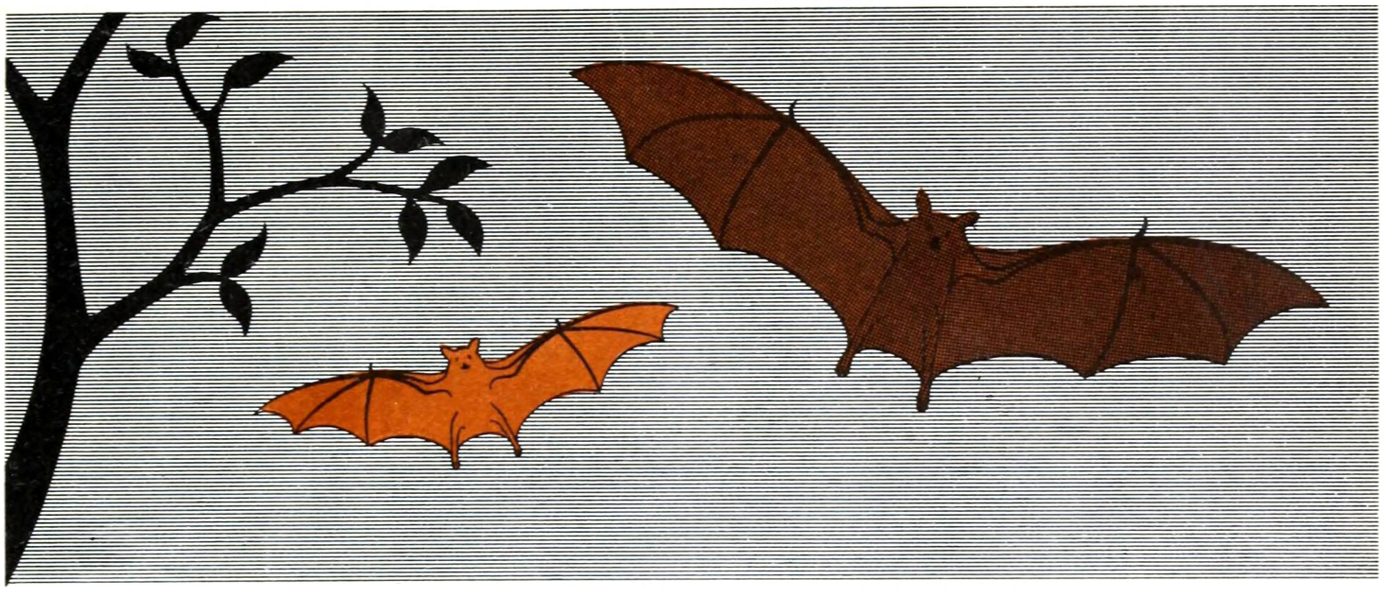
Mother polar bear stays under the deep snow, feeding her babies and keeping them warm with her big, furry body. Unlike the father, she has nothing to eat for several months.

It Looks like a Mouse, It Flies like a Bird



By day mother bat hangs upside down from the branch of a tree and sleeps. Her new-born baby clings to her furry coat. When mother flies at night, she carries baby with her.

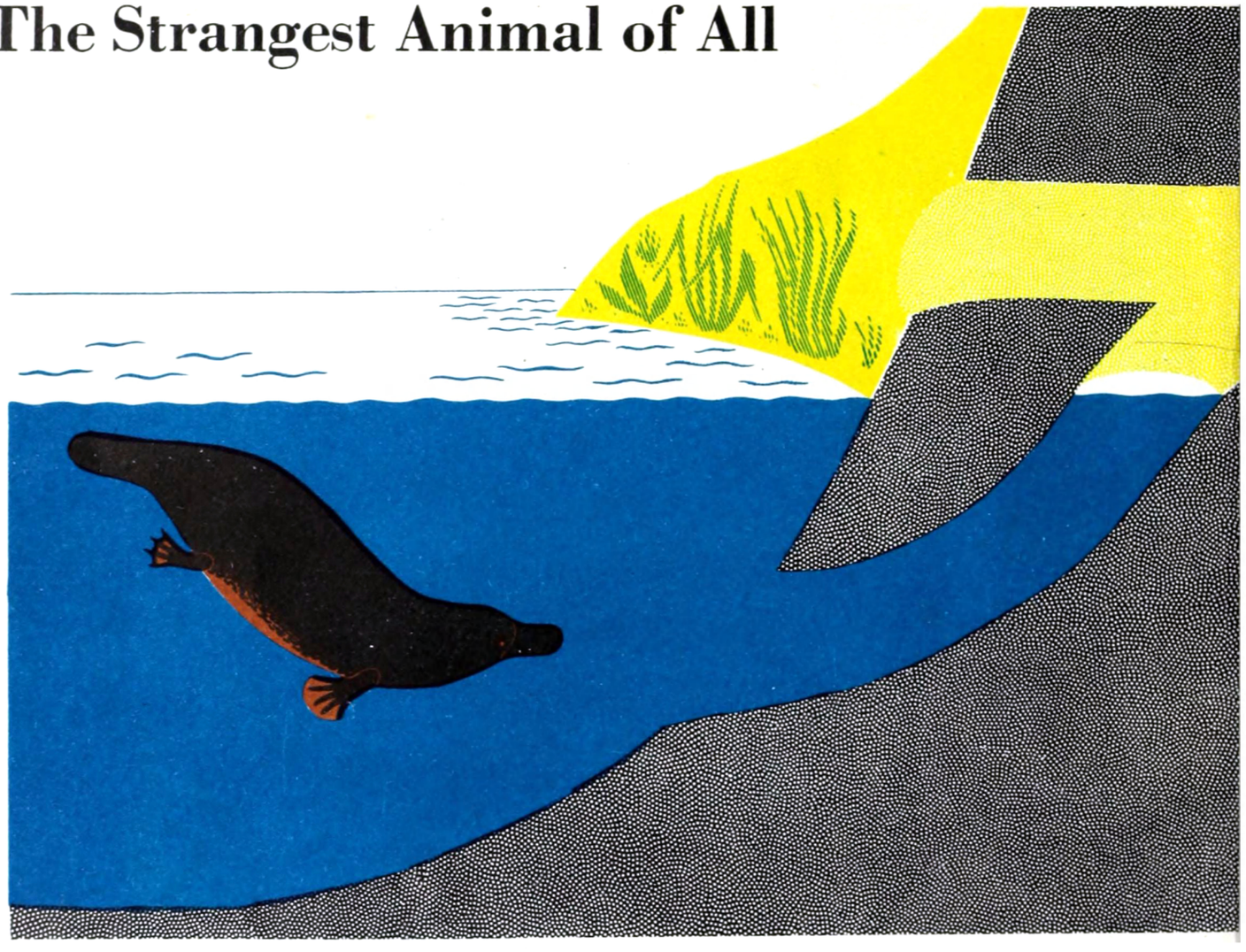
When the baby is a little older, he is left hanging from a branch while his mother flies off to search for food.



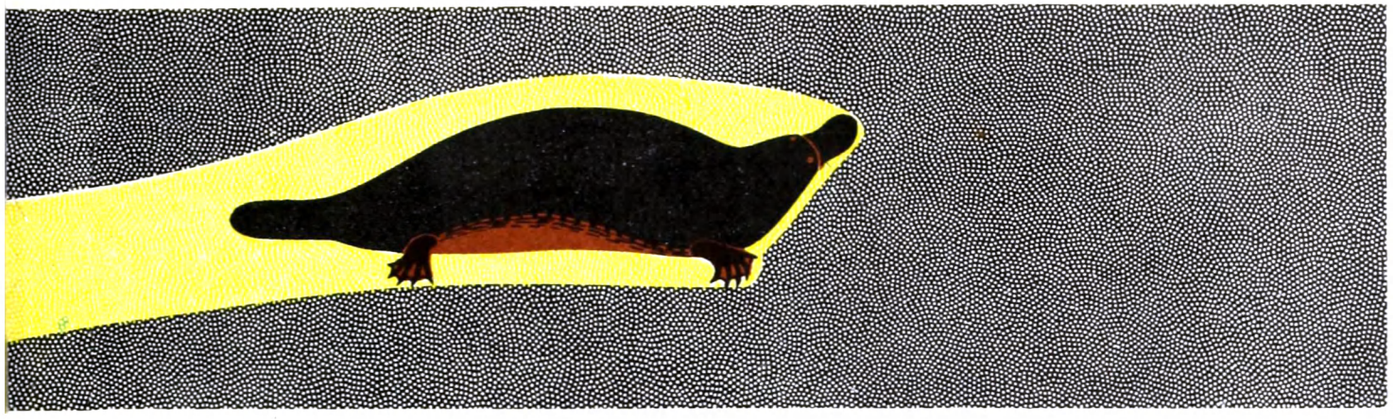
As time goes on the young bat grows too big and heavy to be carried about. The mother teaches him to use his wings. Then when night falls they go flying together.

When winter comes, mother bat and her young one hang side by side from a bare bough and sleep day and night until spring.

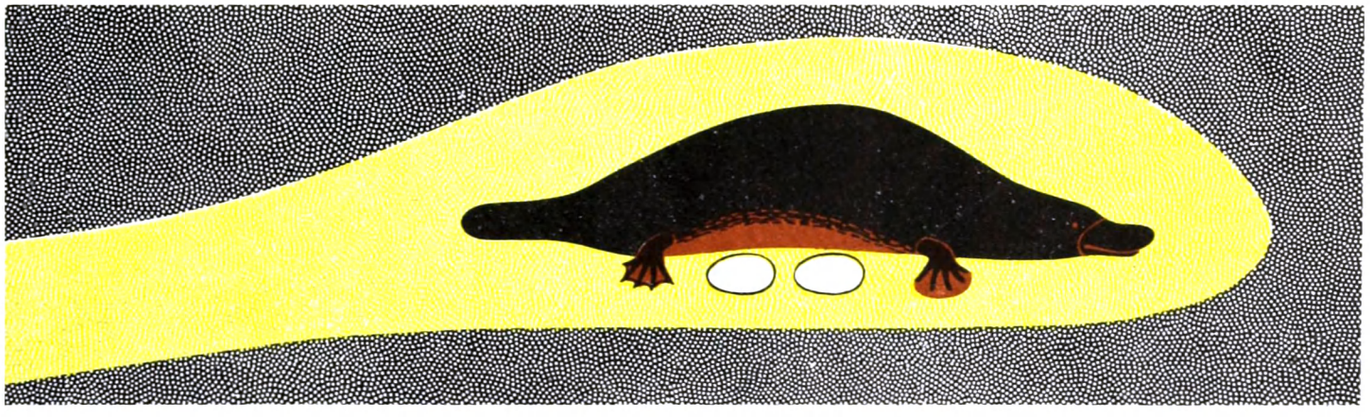
The Strangest Animal of All



Its mouth looks like a duck's beak and it has webbed feet like a duck's. Also it lays eggs and hatches them out. But it has strong claws, and a coat of short fur. This queer, mixed animal is the duck-billed platypus which lives in the rivers of Australia. To make a home, it digs a long tunnel with one entrance in the bank and one under the water.



Claws out, web folded back, the platypus digs like a mole.



When the nest is finished, mother platypus lays two eggs.

When the babies hatch out the mother feeds them with milk.

Watchmen of an Animal City

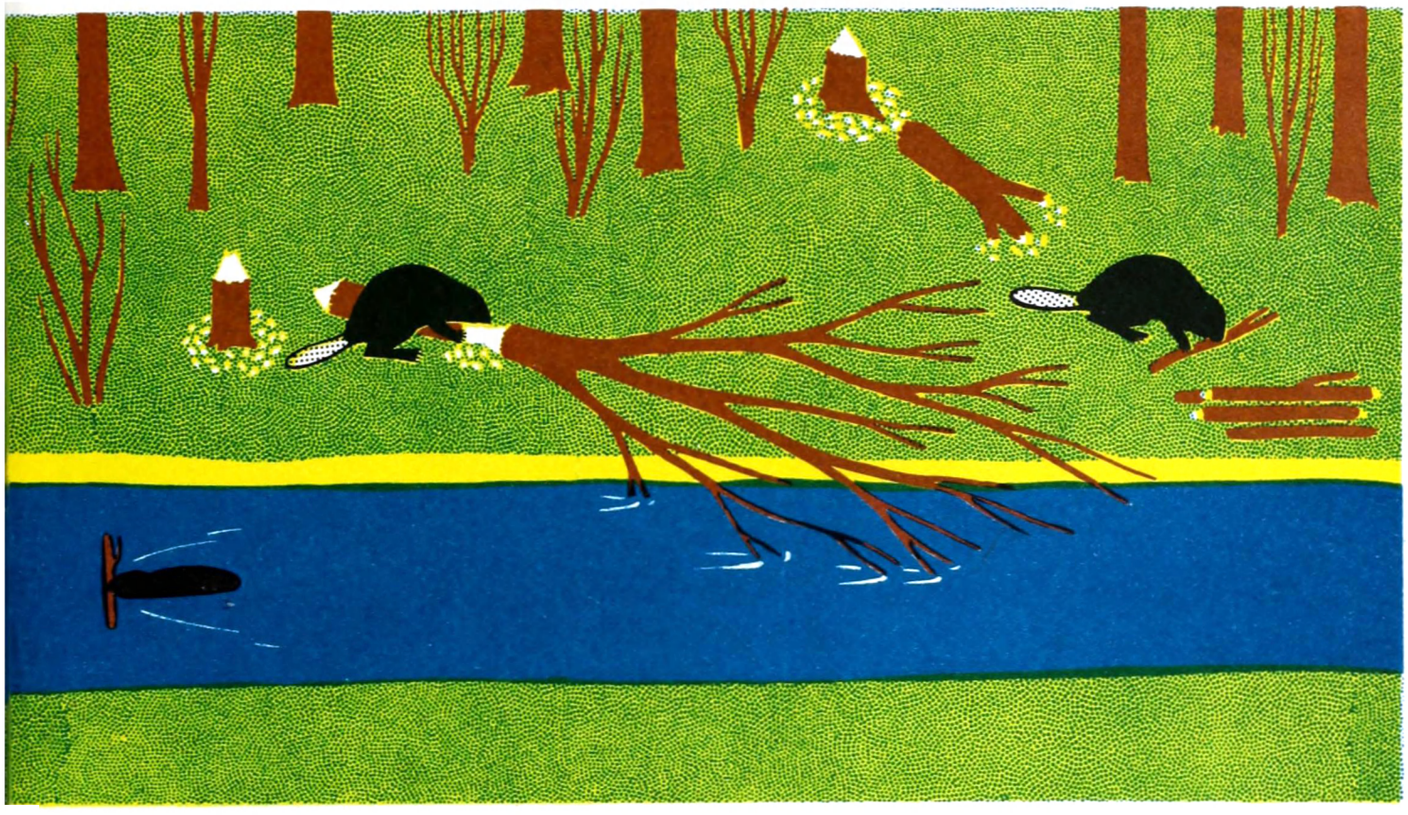
These prairie dogs play among the little hills of their undergrou

If an enemy comes near by day they dart below. At night they sleep in the tunnels, of which there are many hundreds.

during the day. Sentries on the hills keep watch.

But they are never safe. Small enemies like the fox and the badger are now awake and crawl into the tunnels to attack them.

Teeth that Fell Trees, Paws that Build Dams



Beavers make their homes where there will always be water near at hand. If a drought came this small stream might dry up, so the beavers build a dam to form a lake.
Two of them are cutting down trees with their strong, sharp teeth, working cleverly to make sure the trunks will fall towards the stream. Others are cutting a fallen tree into lengths. Two more are swimming along with logs in their mouths. They will wedge these against the rocks, where they will not be washed away. When they have made a great pile of logs by the rocks, the beavers use their front paws to fill up the gaps in their dam with stones and mud.

A New Town in a New Lake

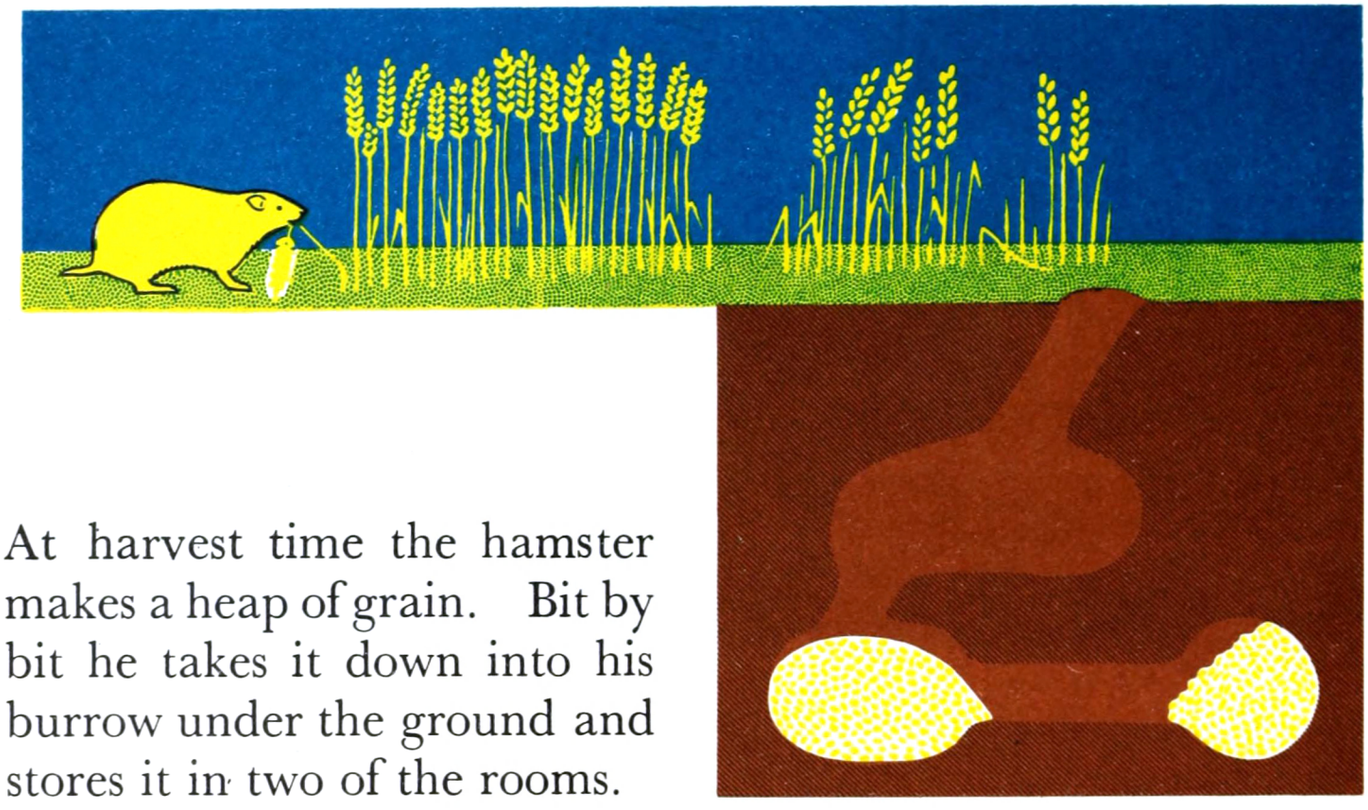
Now the beavers begin to build their homes, called lodges. These are made of logs, stones and mud, just like the dam. In winter the mud sets as hard as stone and makes the lodges firm and strong. The diving beaver is going indoors. Can you guess how he will do this ?

Here is a finished lodge with a family of beavers asleep inside it, their faces covered with their front paws. The lodge floor is above water, but the passage leading to the lodge begins near the bottom of the lake.

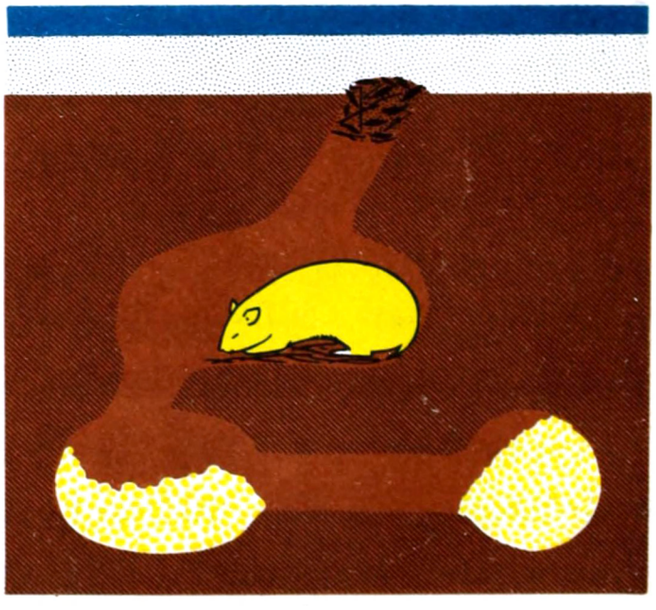
In winter the water near the surface will turn into ice, but the water near the bottom will not. The beavers will still be able to use the passage to get in and out of their homes.

Beavers use their big, flat tails to help them to steer when swimming. They also slap their tails on the water to warn each other of danger, especially when a tree is about to fall.

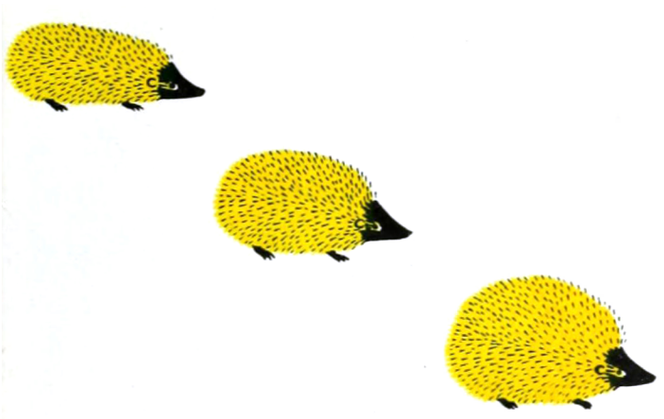
Living Through the Long, Hungry Winter



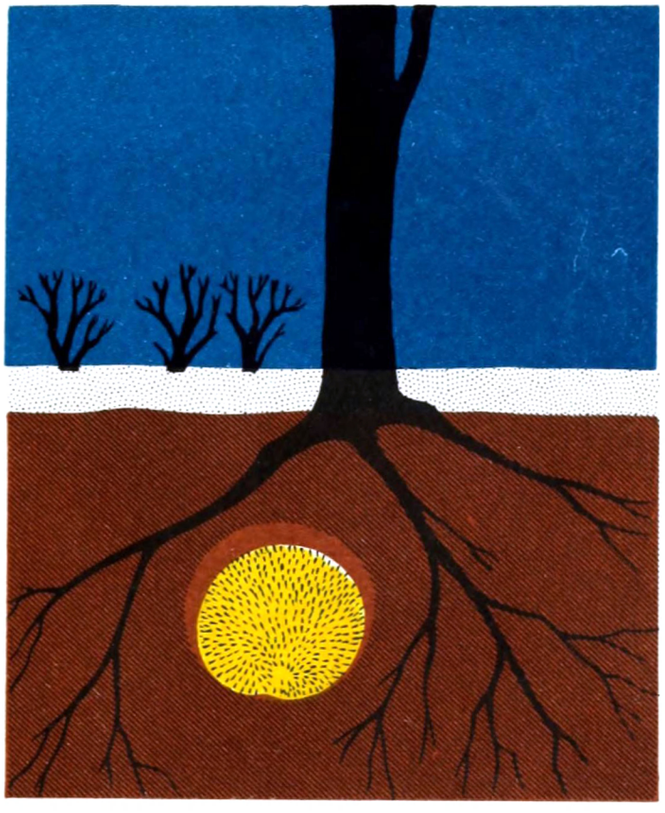
At harvest time the hamster makes a heap of grain. Bit by bit he takes it down into his burrow under the ground and stores it in two of the rooms.



When winter comes he goes into the burrow, covers up the entrance and sleeps most of the time until early spring. But now and again he wakes up and eats some of the grain he has stored.



The hedgehog eats and eats after the summer, and grows fatter and fatter. In winter he sleeps curled up in a nest of dry leaves.



He eats no more for months and so he gets slimmer . . .

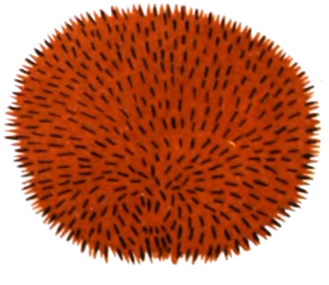
. . . and slimmer.

When spring comes he wakes up thin and hungry.

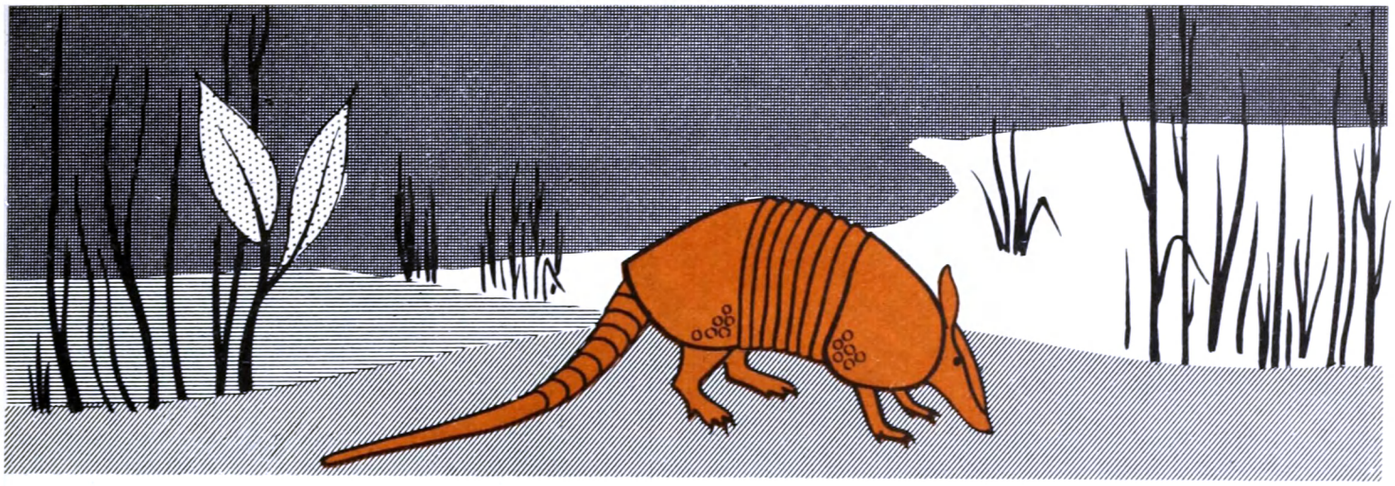
Beating the Enemy Without a Fight

Some animals defend themselves without fighting. When frightened, the skunk squirts an unpleasant liquid from underneath his tail.

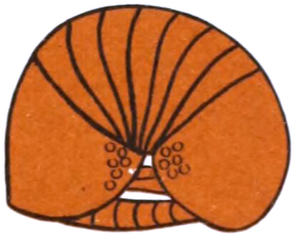
The hedgehog
rolls himself
into a prickly ball.

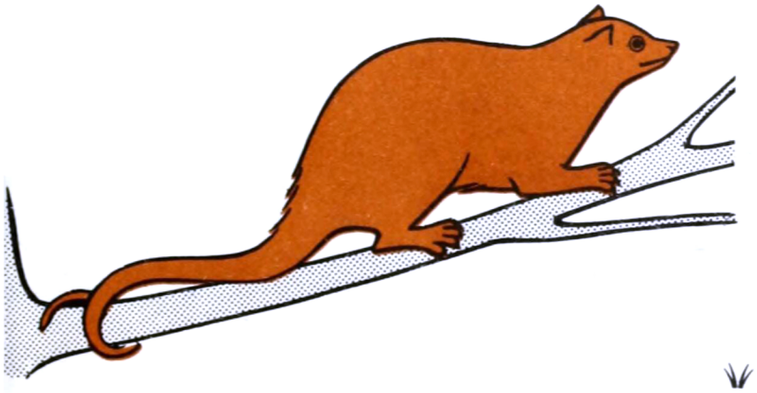


No dog would dare attack him.

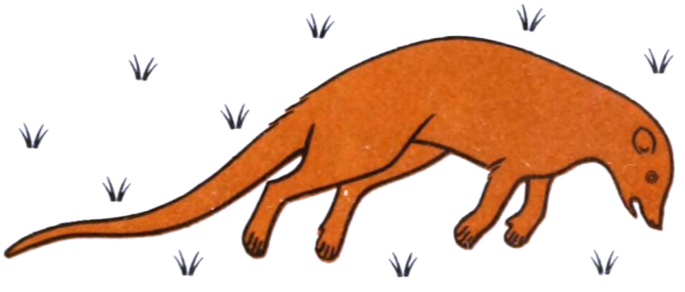


The armadillo has many rings of tough shell round his body, all loosely joined together. When he is attacked he curls up tight. His head, tail and legs are safely hidden in the strong shell.

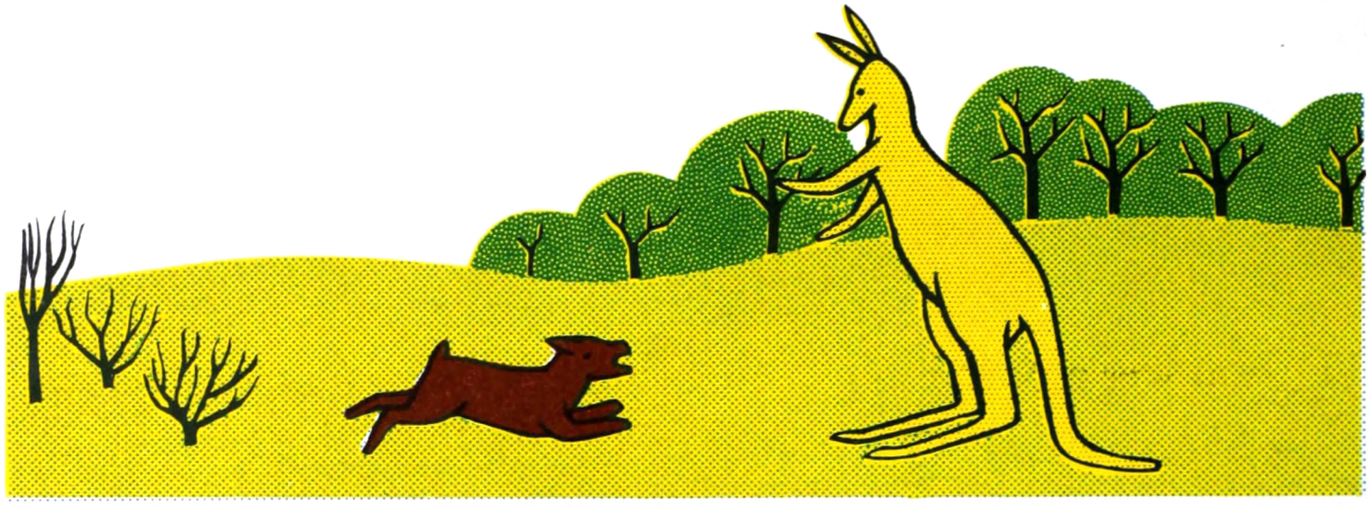




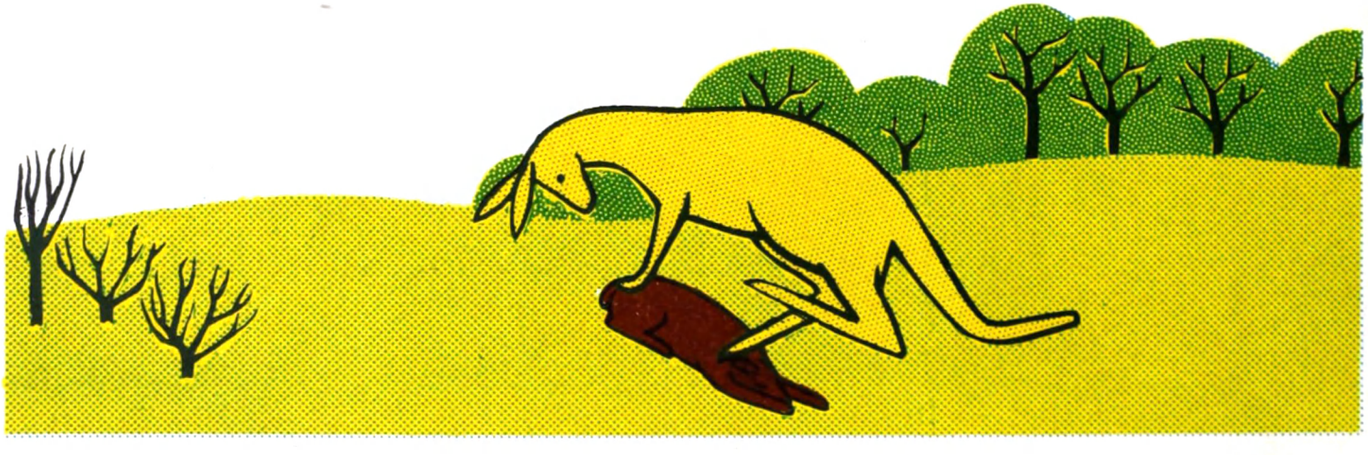
The opossum
simply pretends
he is dead.



The Kangaroo Kicks, the Porcupine Pricks



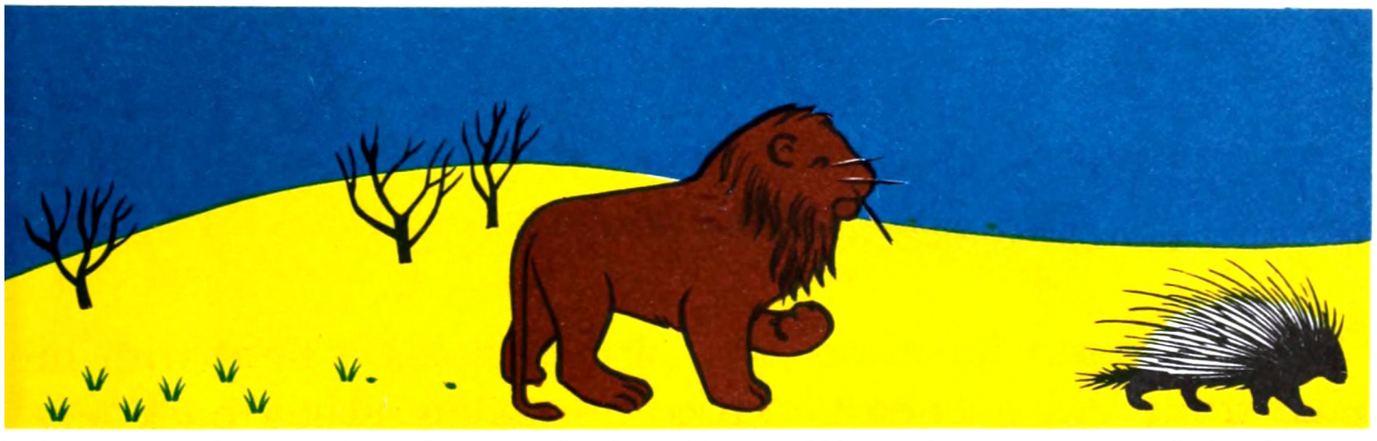
The dog tries to bite the kangaroo with his sharp teeth.



The kangaroo pounces on the dog and holds it tight with his small front legs. Then he kicks it with his strong back legs. The dog would be glad to run away.

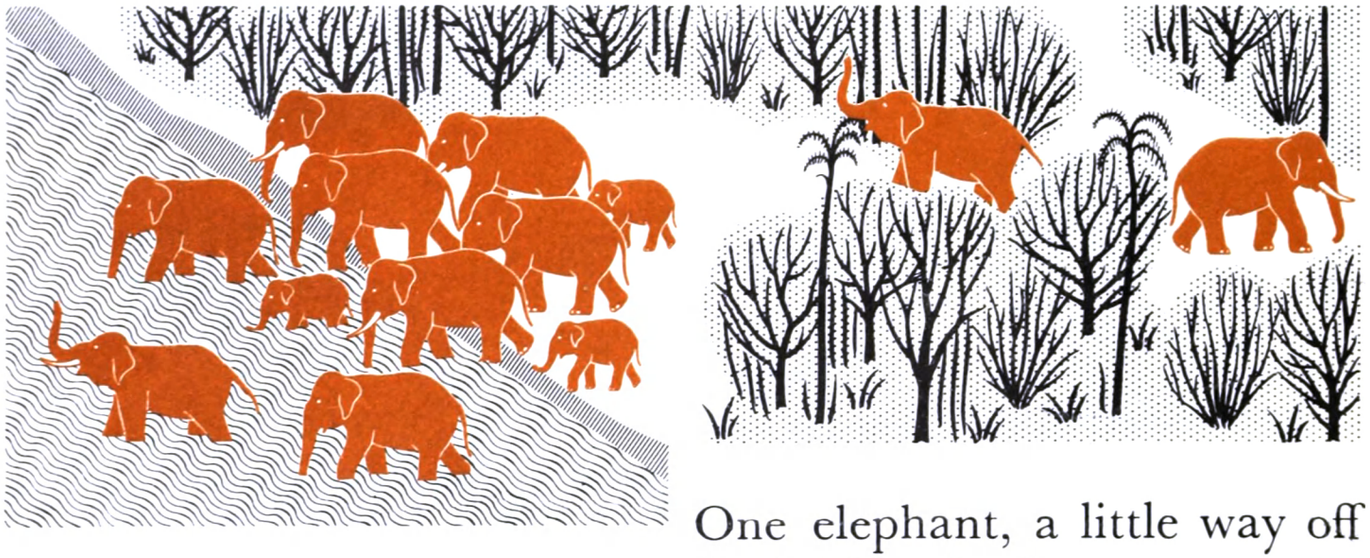
The lion sees a porcupine. He attacks with his teeth and claws.

Just as he springs, the porcupine shoots up its long spines.

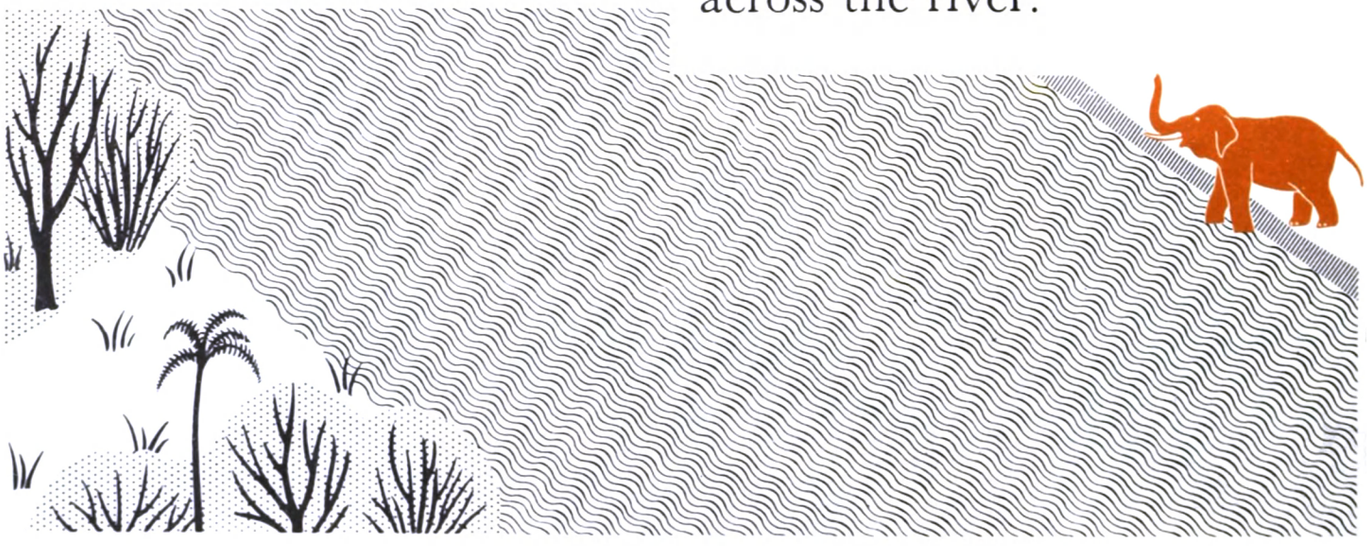


They stick in the face of the lion, like sharp, painful darts.

A Lost Elephant is Left Alone



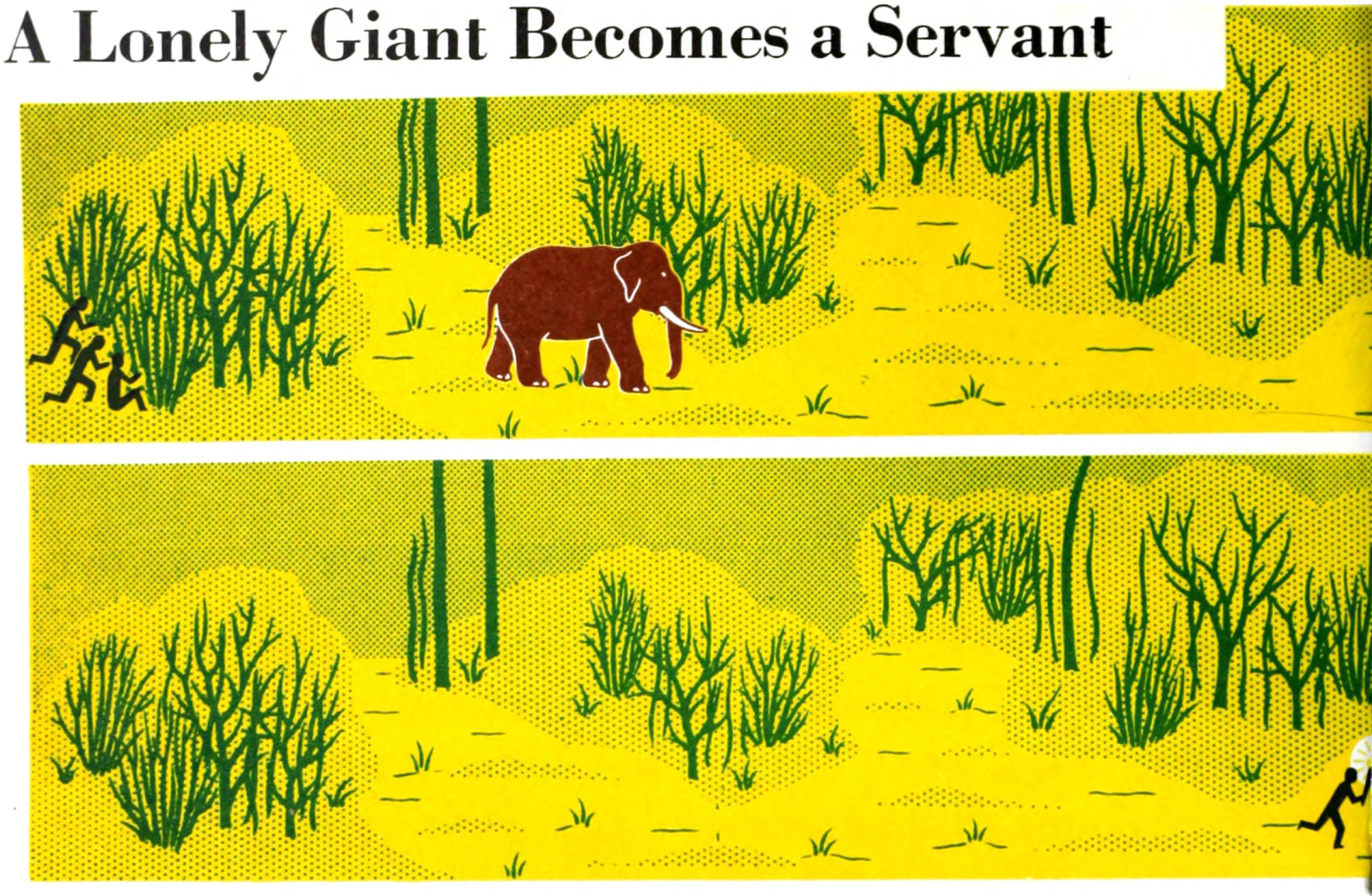
One elephant, a little way off in the jungle, does not see the others following their leader across the river.



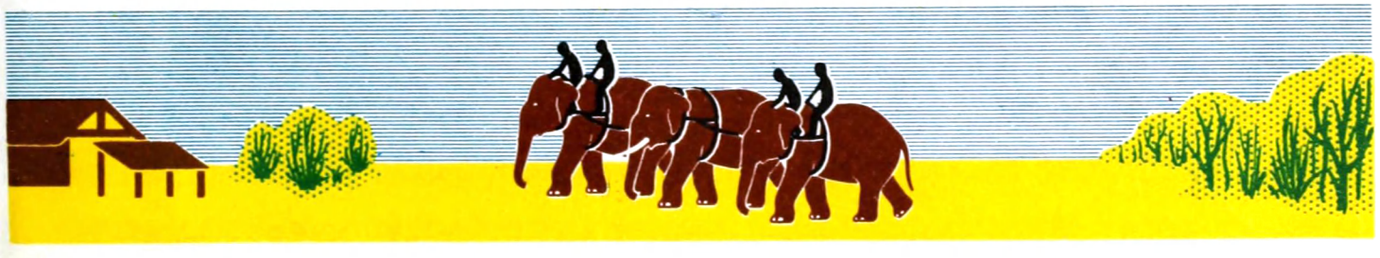
When he looks for them they are gone. He cannot follow their scent now they have crossed the water. He lifts his trunk and trumpets loudly, but there is no answer.

Can he join a different herd? He tries, but they turn their backs on him and walk away. No herd will let a stranger come and live among them. He has lost his own herd, and now he must live alone. To be alone in the forest is dangerous.

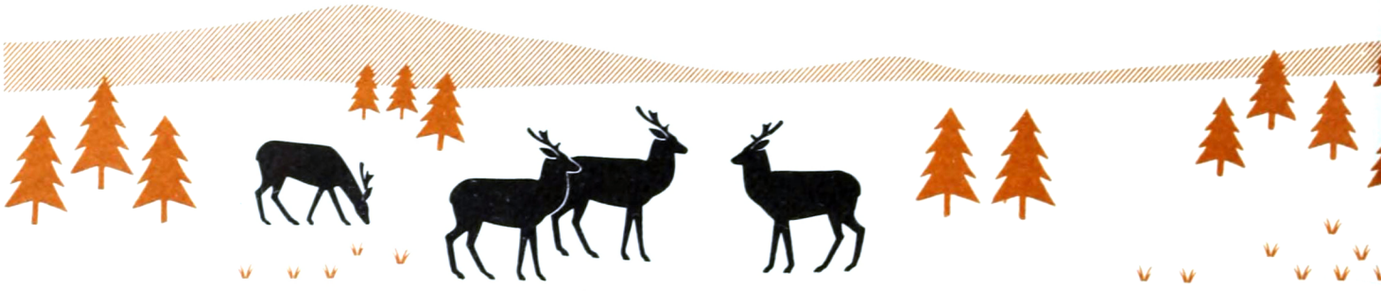
A Lonely Giant Becomes a Servant



An elephant living alone is not hard to capture. While some men follow its movements, others build a big enclosure, leaving a gap in the fence. Men with lighted torches chase the elephant inside and the gap is quickly closed with a strip of fence.
Hiding in the trees are men with ropes. They lassoo the elephant and tie it up. Later two tame elephants are brought into the enclosure. The captured elephant, tied up between them, learns to obey the keepers' orders. Soon it will be a strong, patient servant, carrying heavy loads for its master.



The Battle to be Leader of the Herd



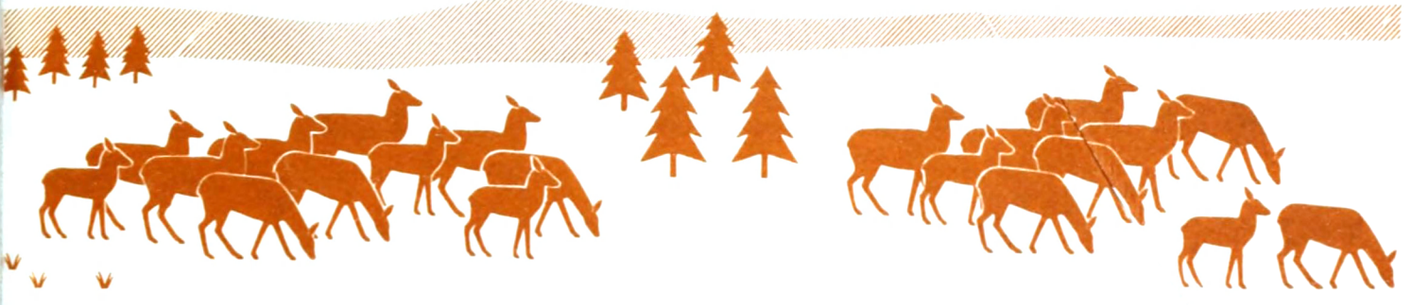
1. Last spring these stags shed their big branching horns, called antlers. Now, in summer, they are growing new ones.

3. In October the stags fight each other fiercely, charging and wrestling with their strong antlers.

5. In winter the father stags leave their herds and live in the forest. Soon they will shed their antlers once more.

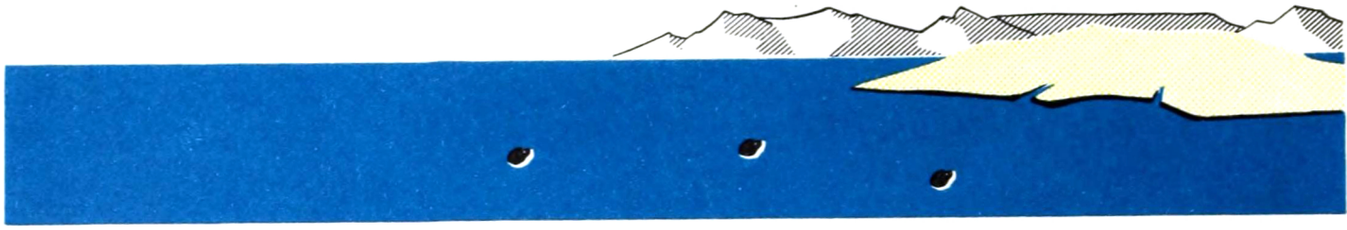
2. The mother deer do not live with the stags during summer. They and their young ones stay together in small herds.

4. The stag who proves the best fighter becomes leader of a big herd. He claims all the grown deer as his wives.



6. The mother deer and their young, now beginning to grow up, again live in small herds with no stag to lead them.

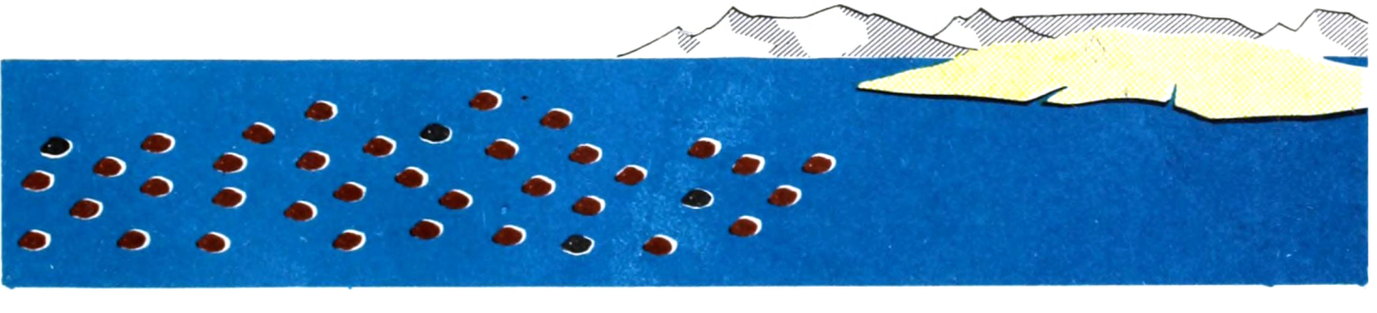
The Struggle Among the Seals



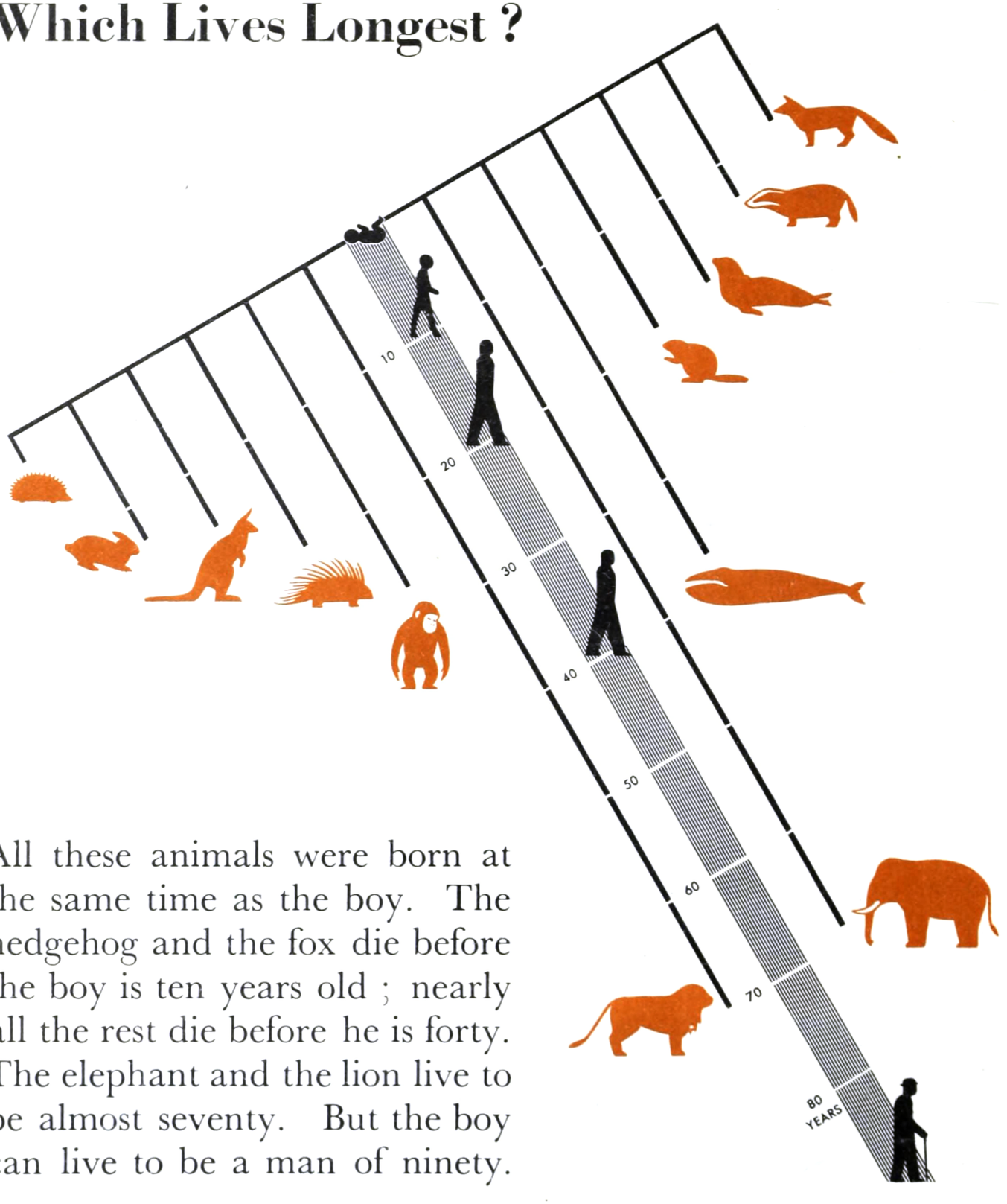
Every year seals swim hundreds of miles, from California to islands near Alaska. The bull seals come first, in spring.

The more powerful bulls drive the old weak ones and the very young ones inland, away from the sea. They then share the beach among themselves, one big strip for each strong bull. In June the cow seals arrive in great numbers.

Each strong bull collects about fifty cows as his wives. If one tries to steal another's wives, a fierce fight begins. If an *old* bull tries to steal a wife, several strong ones attack him. Soon after the cows arrive, the baby seals are born. In late summer, when the young ones can swim, the whole herd swim back to California together.



Which Lives Longest ?



All these animals were born at the same time as the boy. The hedgehog and the fox die before the boy is ten years old ; nearly all the rest die before he is forty. The elephant and the lion live to be almost seventy. But the boy can live to be a man of ninety.